

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed April 8, 2005 which imposed a Species Election in the present application. Accordingly, Applicant makes the following election and requests that examination of the elected claims on their merits be promptly conducted in light of the following remarks.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Office alleges that the present application contains claims drawn to three patentably distinct species which are identified as follows:

Species 1: Claims 1-9 and 14-22, Figures 1-2 and 5;

Species 2: Claims 10-13 and 23-37, Figures 4 and 6; and

Species 3: Claims 39-52, Figure 3.

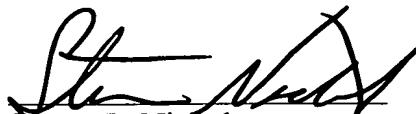
In response, Applicant hereby elects Species 1, represented by claims 1-9 and 14-22, for immediate examination. This election is without traverse.

However, Applicant notes that claim 1 is generic to Species 2, as evidenced by the dependency of claims 10-13 on claim 1. Therefore, in the event that claim 1 is found allowable, Applicant understands that examination of Species 2, claims 10-13 and 23-27, will immediately follow in the present application. MPEP § 806.04(d).

Accordingly, claims 1-9 and 14-22 are elected for immediate examination. All other claims are labeled as "withdrawn" herein. Thus, claims 1-9 and 14-22 are now presented for an action on the merits.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven L. Nichols  
Registration No. 40,326

DATE: 2 May 2005

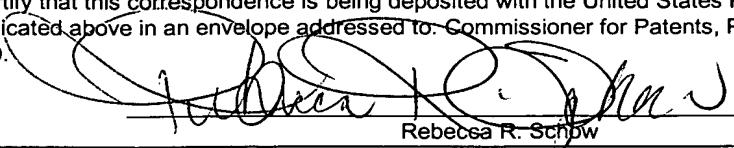
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: May 2, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date indicated above in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Rebecca R. Schow